THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for use in a node of a UMTS (universal mobile telecommunications system) Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) based network for exchanging data with another node of the UTRAN based network, the method comprising the steps of:

formatting data into a UTRAN data frame, the UTRAN data frame comprising a header portion, a payload portion for conveying the data and a quality of service (QoS) field associated with the payload portion; and

transmitting the UTRAN data frame to the other node.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the payload portion comprises a number of dedicated channels (DCHs) and the QoS field, each dedicated channel comprising a number of transport blocks (TBs), and wherein the header portion comprises a number of transport format indicators (TFI) fields each associated with one of the number of DCHs, each TFI indicating a size of one of the number of DCHs.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the payload portion further comprises a payload type indicator field.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the QoS field is transmitted within the payload portion.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the UTRAN data frame further comprises a payload type indicator field.

6. (Original) A method for use in a wireless network element, the method comprising the steps of:

formatting data into a data frame, the data frame comprising a header portion, a payload portion and a quality of service (QoS) field associated with the payload portion; and

transmitting the data frame to another node of the wireless network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the payload portion comprises a number of dedicated channels (DCHs) and the QoS field, each dedicated channel comprising a number of transport blocks (TBs), and wherein the header portion comprises a number of transport format indicators (TFI) fields each associated with one of the number of DCHs, each TFI indicating a size of one of the number of DCHs.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the payload portion further comprises a payload type indicator field.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the QoS field is transmitted within the payload portion.

10. (Original) A transmission frame representing data embodied in a wireless transmission signal, the transmission frame comprising:

a payload portion comprising at least one dedicated transport channel (DCH) portion, wherein the at least one DCH portion further comprises a number of transport blocks (TB) for conveying data; and

a header comprising at least one transport format indicator (TFI) field for the at least one DCH portion, wherein a value of the TFI field represents a size of the at least one DCH; and

a quality of service (QoS) field associated with the payload portion.

11. (Original) The transmission frame of claim 10 wherein the QoS field is transmitted within the payload portion.

12. (Original) The transmission frame of claim 10 wherein the payload portion further comprises a payload type indicator field.

13. (Original) Apparatus for use in a wireless network element, the apparatus comprising:

a formatter for forming a data frame, the data frame comprising a payload portion comprising at least one dedicated transport channel (DCH) portion, wherein the at least one DCH portion further comprises a number of transport blocks (TB) for conveying data, and a header portion comprising at least one transport format indicator (TFI) field for the at least one DCH portion, wherein a value of the TFI field represents a size of the at least one DCH; and

a quality of service (QoS) field associated with the payload portion; and

a radio frequency transmitter for transmitting the data frame to another wireless network element.

14. (Original) The data frame of claim 13 wherein the QoS field is transmitted within the payload portion.

15. (Original) The transmission frame of claim 13 wherein the payload portion further comprises a payload type indicator field.